

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02671 200228Z

ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, GW

SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES

SUMMARY: COMMITTEE MET AUGUST 18 TO DISCUSS COMMITTEE REPORT. ALTHOUGH COMMITTEE UNABLE TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT, DEBATE REVEALED THAT MAJORITY OF MEMBERS FAVORED AT LEAST A SHORT SUMMARY OF THE ENTIRE DEBATE IN THE REPORT AND THE APPENDAGE OF THE WORKING PAPERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND POSSIBLY THE SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE ENTIRE DEBATE. END SUMMARY

1. COMMITTEE WAS PRESENTED WITH PARTIAL DRAFT REPORT BY RAPPORTEUR (BYELORUSSIA) WHICH INCLUDED THE RESOLUTION, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, THE OFFICERS, THE PROPOSALS DISCUSSED, AND THE MEETINGS DEVOTED TO GENERAL AND SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE. REPORT ALSO REFLECTED REQUEST FOR SECRETARIAT PAPER ON OTHER PROPOSALS OF STATES. RAPPORTEUR ASKED COMMITTEE WHAT ELSE IT WANTED INCLUDED IN REPORT.

2. TANZANIA, SUPPORTED BY PHILIPPINES, ALGERIA AND GUINEA, SAID IT COULD ACCEPT REPORT AS IS, AND IF ANYONE OBJECTED IT SHOULD SAY WHAT ELSE SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

3. US SAID IT WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT AS REPORT WHAT WAS ADMITTEDLY ONLY PART OF A REPORT. SAID THIS DOCUMENT WOULD BE OF NO USE TO SIXTH COMMITTEE, WHOSE INTERESTED MEMBERS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 02671 200228Z

WOULD BE FORCED TO READ ENTIRE SUMMARY RECORDS. CALLED FOR A REPORT WHICH SUMMARIZED DEBATE.

4. AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE IT BECAME APPARENT THAT COMMITTEE DESIRED INSERTION OF SUMMARY OF DEBATE OF COMMITTEE IN BODY OF REPORT. GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT ANY SUMMARY MUST INCULDE ENTIRE DEBATE. TANZANIA THEN INTERVENED TO INSIST THAT NAY

SUMMARY MUST BE SHORT SINCE THERE WAS LITTLE TIME TO DISCUSS IT.

5. ANOTHER ISSUE IN DEBATE WAS WHAT WOULD BE APPENDED TO REPORT. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT ALL OF THE PROPOSALS OF STATE SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

6. WHEN IT FINALLY APPEARED THAT COMMITTEE FAVORED A SUMMARY OF REPORT AND THE APPENDAGE OF ALL PROPOSALS OF STATES, BUT NOT SECRETARIAT PAPER, TANZANIA INTERVENED TO INSIST THAT COMMITTEE AGREE IMMEDIATELY THAT SUMMARY RECORDS OF ENTIRE DEBATE BY APPENDED. US RESPONDED THAT THIS PRACTICE WAS NEEDLESS DUPLICATION. SINCE SUMMARY RECORDS READILY AVAILABLE AND VERY EXPENSIVE. SAID IF SUMMARY OF DEBATE WAS ACCURATE THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SUMMARY RECORDS TO BE ATTACHED. FINALLY SAID THAT MATTER AT LEAST NEED BE DECIDED UNTIL WAS SAW THE SUMMARY. AT THIS POINT, USSR INTERVENED TO SUPPORT TANZANIA. COMMENT: AS USSR IS ORDINARILY AS COST-CONSCIOUS AS US, WE PRESUME INTERVENTION MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO UNDERMINE GENERAL AGREEMENT OF FORM OF REPORT IN LINE WITH UNVARYING SOVIET GAME TO DATE OF TRYING TO POISON ATMOSPHERE AND TIE COMMITTEE UP IN PROCEDURAL WRANGLES. END COMMENT.

7. AFTER INSISTING FOR SOME TIME AND AFTER INTERVENTIONS BY OTHERS REVEALED RELATIVE ISOLATION OF HIS POSITION, TANZANIA DISCONTINUED INSISTENCE ON AGREEMENT TODAY BUT SAID FAILURE TO AGREE TO ATTACHING SUMMARY RECORDS PREVENTED HIM FROM JOINING ANY COMMITTEE
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PAGE 03 USUN N 02671 200228Z

AGREEMENT AS TO SUBSTANCE OF REPORT. SAID ONLY CONCLUSION WAS THAT COMMITTEE HAD MADE NO DECISION AT ALL AT THIS MEETING.

8. COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THIS RESULT. CHAIR (BRACKLO) SAID RAPPORTEUR COULD DISCERN FROM DISCUSSION TYPE OF REPORT COMMITTEE DESIRED.

9. RAPPORTEUR WILL PREPARE SUMMARY OF DEBATE FOR DISCUSSION AT AUGUST 19 MEETING.

10. FRG PROVIDED LITTLE GUIDANCE TO US, UK, NETHERLANDS OR MEXICO, KEY DELEGATIONS SUPPORTING ITS EFFORTS, AS TO TYPE OF REPORT IT DESIRED. IT APPEARS THAT MAIN CONCERN OF FRG IS TO HAVE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO SIXTH COMMITTEE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE ADOPTION OF A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE COMMITTEE TO BE RECONVENED NEXT YEAR. IF THAT IS ACCOMPLISHED, FRG APPEARS UNWILLING TO FIGHT ON SUBSTANCE OF REPORT. WHILE US UNDERSTANDS IN LARGE PART THIS APPROACH, WE HAVE CAUTIONED FRG NOT TO GIVE UP SO MUCH IN DISCUSSION OF BODY OF COMMITTEE REPORT THAT THEY HAVE NO BARGAINING LEVERAGE LEFT WITH WHICH TO EXTRACT CONSENSUS ON DECENTLY PHRASED RESOLUTION AND AVOID A HARMFUL REPORT.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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